AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for creating a vector representation of a ~~a~~ <u>an</u> image, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring position information for two nodes of the image from user input;

determining <u>to generate</u> a curve sketching a segment of an outline of the image between the two nodes <u>according to the two nodes</u>;

acquiring position information of a new node on the image from additional user input;

determining <u>to generate</u> another curve sketching another segment of the outline of the image between the new node and the node where the previous curve ends <u>according to the new node and the node where the previous curve ends</u>; and

repeating the ~~determination~~ step <u>of acquiring position information of nodes and curve generation accordingly</u> until the outline of the image is completely sketched.

Claim 2 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image is a bitmap image.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the curve sketching one segment of the outline of the image between two of the nodes acquired from user input is ~~determined~~ <u>generated</u> by the steps of:

~~determining a vector flow of the image between the two nodes by a tracing algorithm to extract a number of sample points;~~

<u>obtaining a number of sample points using a tracing algorithm between the two nodes;</u>

<u>generating a vector flow between the two nodes according to the sample points;</u>

determining a function describing the sample points by a curve-fitting algorithm; and

adopting the function to one describing a cubic Bezier curve<u>, where the cubic Bezier curve is the curve sketching one segment of the outline of the image between two of the nodes</u>.

Claim 4 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the curve-fitting algorithm is Simple Curve Fitting algorithm.

Claim 5 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising smoothing joints of the curves sketching the outline of the image.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for creating a vector representation of a ~~a~~ <u>an</u> image, the apparatus comprising:

means for acquiring position information for pairs of nodes of the image from user input<u>, and position information of a new node of the image from user input</u>; and

means for determining <u>to generate</u> a curve sketching a segment of an outline of the image between each pair of nodes <u>according to the two nodes, and to generate another</u>

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curve sketching another segment of the outline of the image between the new node and the node where the previous curve ends according to the new node and the node where the previous curve ends.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the image is a bitmap image.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the curve ~~determining~~ generation means comprises:
   means for ~~determining a vector flow of the image between the two nodes by a tracing algorithm to extract a number of sample points~~ obtaining a number of sample points using a tracing algorithm between the two nodes;
   means for generating a vector flow between the two nodes according to the sample points;
   means for determining a function describing the sample points by a curve-fitting algorithm; and

   means for adopting the function to one describing a cubic Bezier curve, where the cubic Bezier curve is the curve sketching one segment of the outline of the image between two of the nodes.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the curve-fitting algorithm is Simple Curve Fitting algorithm.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising means for smoothing joints of the curves sketching the outline of the image.

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